

# University Missourian

An evening newspaper published at Columbia, Mo., every Wednesday by the Department of Journalism of the University of Missouri.

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## UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

- Nov. 20. Student volunteer band, "The Far East and Christianity," Y. W. C. A. room, 7 p. m.
- Nov. 21. Athenaeum Literary Society. Union Literary Society. New Era Debating Club, Room 14, Academic Hall, 7:30 p. m. M. S. U. Debating Club.
- Nov. 25. 4 p. m. to Nov. 30, at 8 a. m. Thanksgiving Holidays.
- Dec. 3, 8 p. m., and Dec. 4, all day. Oriental sale, Y. W. C. A., University auditorium.
- Dec. 4. Lecture, John T. McCutcheon, Auditorium.
- Dec. 11 and 12. Inauguration of President A. Ross Hill.
- Dec. 12. "She Stoops to Conquer."
- Dec. 18. Lecture, Lorado Taft, Auditorium.

## THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPER.

The country newspaper, intelligently conducted, fills an important place in the journalism of the United States, a place that the modern city paper will never be able to fill. The country newspaper is closer to the people of the country than the metropolitan newspaper can ever be. The average person knows nothing at all about the editor of the modern city newspaper, they read the editorials, or at least some of them, but they have no thought for the man that writes them. With the country editor it is different. Everybody knows him; he is an authority on every subject under the sun. The people rely on him, and if his paper is intelligently edited it becomes a power for good in the community.

The country newspaper editor should study his community and learn it thoroughly. He should in time become personally acquainted with each of his subscribers. He should understand their needs. He should be able to tell the farmers when to plant and harvest their corn, when to gather their pumpkins. He should be able to tell them which is the best breed of dairy cow, and how to feed her. If he sees that his community prospers no longer by regular farming, he should show them how to become dairy farmers or stock raisers.

The country editor should print a newspaper that deals with all phases of life as it exists in his community. His paper should have regular departments and they should be kept in the same place. The farmer should know exactly where to turn to find the latest agricultural news, or the latest stock news, and his wife should know immediately where to turn to find the things that interest her, for instance, the pattern for a new dress for her eight year old daughter, or the latest recipe for making pear preserves. The young daughter and son should be able to turn immediately to the column that always tells of the parties both past and present, the visitors in the community and general country gossip that interests the whole family as well as themselves.

Besides this local news, the paper should carry a certain amount of state news, with a general survey of the big events of the week both home and foreign, with intelligent comment thereon. The meaning of the big events of the world should be explained and interpreted for subscribers.

A great deal of attention should be paid to the country advertisers. This should be a campaign of education. The country merchant must be taught to advertise, if he would keep pace with the modern city business establishment with its big modern mail order department. The progressive farmers should be taught how to advertise their special types of live stock and grains, and how to create a demand for them.

In fact, there is nothing that can build up a community more than an up-to-date country newspaper. It can become the greatest power in the community.

## The Measure of Renown.

Bob: Introduce me to the old guy.  
The Hostess: Why, you must know him. He's the president of your college.  
"No, I don't. He isn't interested in athletics."—Life.

## VIEWPOINTS

(The University Missourian invites contributions, not to exceed 200 words, on matters of University interest. The name of the writer should accompany such letters, but will not be printed unless desired. The University Missourian does not express approval or disapproval of these communications by printing them.)

### Would Have Yells Printed.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:  
Since the student body of Kansas University is having printed a small handbook of their yells to be given out to the people who see the Thanksgiving game, why should not the student body here have a copy of our yells to give our many loyal Missouri rooters in Kansas City?  
H. T. N.

### On Wearing Varsity Colors.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:  
We would like to know why students who have never taken part in athletics of any form are allowed to wear Varsity Colors on athletic garments? Also, why men who have never been on the gridiron should wear football hats? And why Old Gold and Black jerseys and sweaters are continually worn by men who have never earned that right?

Four or five years ago the Athletic Department purchased all the Varsity colored sweaters and jerseys the Columbia dealers had on hand, it being understood that they were to handle no more goods in Varsity colors.

Finally we would like to know if this is permitted promiscuously by all students, what satisfaction the Varsity athlete will get out of this same privilege being granted to him by the Athletic Department?  
A JUNIOR.

### Have Married A Wife.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:  
A few days ago a paragraph appeared in The University Missourian, about Leap Year Matrimony, among the Co-Eds. Evidently someone besides the Co-Eds took the hint and as a result one out of the Department of Journalism was roped in and is taking a vacation for a week. Working steadily along, his specialty being newspaper work, not one of his class mates suspected that his heart strings were pulling to the bursting point and that it was agony for him to work on such an earthly thing as a newspaper. They knew not how quickly he was to be snatched from them and when it was announced in class Monday morning by reading the groom's letter in which he said, "I have taken a wife, will be back in a week," they were thrown into a speechless condition.

The class would never have thought such a thing of one of its members, and there may be a slump in the paper until this important personage gets back. It has been proposed that when he does come back he be made editor of a chaperone column. Perhaps however, this will be too big an undertaking for one man.  
ALSO A CO-ED.

### For Better Plays.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:  
Without wishing to pose as a purist or a critic I should like nevertheless to express an opinion concerning the so-called stage, as it exists in Columbia. This is a college community, of all places the place where a taste for high-class drama and first-rate actors should exist. Now what competent judge will say that the people of Columbia ever catch a glimpse of a first-rate actor or actress in a play of merit, barring an occasional, may rare, exception? Is the public taste elevated by such productions as "The Isle of Spice" or "Dream City"? These are mere diversions of extremely doubtful propriety for the young mind, and are absolutely devoid of any educational value whatever. Such shows deprive the student of his money and his valuable time, and in return give him less than nothing.

During the two years that the Opera House has been in operation here there have been certainly not more than two or three productions of merit presented. One of these, "The Taming of the Shrew," with C. A. B. Hanford in the leading role, was greeted by such a pitifully small audience that Hanford administered between acts a well-merited rebuke to the play-going public of Columbia, and expressed his chagrin and disappointment in no uncertain terms at such a reception in the place where he naturally least expected it. On the other hand, do the commonplace shows of the type of "District Leader" suffer for lack of patronage? By no means, the S. R. O. sign is worked overtime.

In other University towns, so far as I know, no such conditions exist. If the towns themselves are lax, and it is doubtful if many are to the degree that Columbia is, the students take it upon themselves to present plays worth seeing. At the University of California is a beautiful Greek Theatre where classical plays are presented by the students. The societies and Dramatic Club at the University of Michigan present plays that do credit to them; two years ago their Circle Francais went abroad and played in France. Dr. Knapp, of Columbia University, told us last year how Greek plays were given by the students at Columbia University. The Kansas University Dramatic Club presents classical plays. Same at Wisconsin. The Dramatic Club at our neighbor University of Arkansas presents yearly classi-

## TOLD ACROSS THE BREAKFAST TABLE

"The very thing," said the art student during a discussion about running a boat excursion to the game at Kansas City. "If the 'stunt' can be pulled off this year it will establish a precedent which others will follow. We can do without the railroads."

"The idea has been talked of before," gloomily continued the red headed "Soph" with the wart on his nose, "but when the time comes to go the scheme 'fizzles out,' and the only fellows to go are the ones whose jeans are well padded with dad's cash. I guess tomorrow someone will make a flying machine proposition to reach Kansas City, and so on until the day comes for us to stand on the station platform, and wave goodbye to the lucky ones."

The football man shook his head. "I believe you're wrong this time. I feel that the students are going to do something. It will either be a boat or a special train. Remember the University Missourian is here to keep the fellows awake to the necessity for action."

"Let's 'bum' our way to Kansas City," suggested the Freshman to the solicitor for the Oven.

"Won't do," answered the latter. "I suppose I'm what a Dean of the University of Michigan, in his speech against college fraternities, classified as an intellectual 'hobo.' I don't think I'd make good on the road."

"I notice that the University may soon have a post office sub-station," remarked the Junior "Medic." "It'll be a good thing too. Most large universities have them. We've felt the need for one here for a long time."

"Probably the post office will serve as a substitute for the removal of the last two years of our medical department to a larger city," volunteered the art student.

"I don't see where the substitution comes in," said the "Medic."

"Well, you ought to know," replied the former sweetly. "Males are conspicuous factors in both departments."

"Monilaw is going to use his 'bow-wow' play against Kansas," ventured the Freshman.

"Right you are," nodded the wag, "and I hope every time it occurs it will result in a dog-gone good gain."

## OF MISSOURIANS AND MISSOURI

Slight earthquakes were felt in many sections of the state Nov. 12. The severest shocks were in the southeast and at Sedalia and Higbee.

W. A. Keyte, of Kirksville, is one of the heirs to the Keyte estate in Scotland. It is said that he will have no trouble in proving his claim to a share. The estate is worth \$30,000,000.

Washington University is trying to raise \$1,000,000 endowment fund. Robert S. Brookings, president of the university corporation, has subscribed \$250,000 and other members \$200,000, leaving \$550,000 to be obtained.

Report comes from Chillicothe of wholesale conversions in a revival held at the little mining town of Galt, nearby. The Rev. J. M. Harris has won 240 converts and with the help of four other ministers baptized 129 in a creek at one time.

### In Conversation.

To move resistlessly in polite society one must not know too much or too little of anything; that would hinder conversation. And to shine in the haunts of higher culture one must know too much about some one thing and nothing about everything else; for that is true scholarship. Between skimming and grubbing there is no middle way, down which any self-respecting member of contemporary society may trudge.—New York Evening Post.

### No Introduction for Him.

Agent: "I am introducing a new typewriter, a neat little thing you can take in your lap."  
Author: "Not for me! I'm a married man."

cal and Shakesperian plays. "The Merchant of Venice," "As You Like It," and "Macbeth" were given there in three successive years. With what does our own Dramatic Club regale us? Only "Mary Ann," and "Brown of Howard." No reflection intended upon the members of that organization, as individuals.

Are we to be so manifestly inferior to other schools in this respect? There is at least one rift in the cloud in sight: I heartily agree with the writer of a recent article in the Missourian that the coming production of "She Stoops to Conquer" by the club is a novel but refreshing departure.

Can't the University sentiment in this matter, and it is to be hoped that such a sentiment does exist, do a great deal toward cultivating the public taste in Columbia for plays with a moral and educational value? Let us work towards the time when instead of seeing "Mary Marble" and "Little Chip," we may see such actors as Louis James, or perhaps E. H. Sothorn. Why not?  
AN OBSERVER.

# EUGENE FIELD'S FIRST PUBLISHED POEM CELEBRATED WINE-CELLAR RAID

Written in "Dog Latin," it Appeared in 1871 in the University Missourian, First Student Publication—History by J. N. Baskett.

THE writer was a fellow-student of Eugene Field at the University of Missouri, and was associated with him in what was the germ of his literary work.

We were both at the same time a part of the editorial corps of that institution's first college paper—the University Missourian. I think his connection was brief, and he resigned before his name was really put into type as an associate, as may be seen by the September, 1871, issues head:—

## The University Missourian

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY  
Editors:  
H. W. EWING, Editor-in-Chief  
J. NEWTON BASKETT, Associates  
JAMES COONEY,  
Literary Critic  
JAMES H. DRYDEN, Local Editor  
N. W. ALLEN, Business Manager

### Resigned.

Our Literary Editor, Mr. EUGENE FIELD, having determined not to attend the University this year, has resigned. We are sorry to lose so valued a member of our corps. Our best wishes go with him.

In looking over the files I do not find any contributions of his except the "dog-Latin" poem below; but there was an immense circulation of similar things from his pen, and that of his younger brother Roswell. These were new songs, old songs revised so as to have apt local references, parodies, and humorous rhymes which were often illustrated by grotesque drawings. Gene knew the frailties of his fellows and the professors, as well as those of the local celebrities; and they all came in for their share of his satire, and they often first saw themselves as others saw them in his caricatures.

HIS talents were various but especially as an actor, and he was in great demand in private theatricals—always being the star of the evening. Even in his own room he would improvise bits of unsolicited acting for the entertainment of a friend or two. He had an excellent voice—rich and deep—in both song and speech, and he had a splendid conception of its use. While his songs were always comic, so far as I can recall now his recitations were nearly always from some of the serious portions of Shakespeare—with a strongly dramatic drift.

In fact as I remember, these were the only occasions on which Field was serious at college. He had then a large, rather overgrown, commanding form, good rhetorical training, deep bass voice, and an excellent conception of the dramatic force of his selection. He used to impress me then as having all the natural elements of an orator.

But his whole aim in life then seemed to be to make those around him enjoy themselves in a humorous way. He asked nothing of you but that you might laugh with him, and for a smile gave you back all the good nature of his heart. As he was then wealthy he never seemed to have a serious thought.

THE following little doggerel is so far as I know the first rhyme that he ever put in print. It is at least his first here in Missouri—where his career began.

The farm attached to the Agricultural College was fortunate in the year 1871 in a large yield of grapes. They were made into wine which was stored in a vat nearly as large as a windmill tank, placed in the basement of the old main building—now burned down.

This was too tempting for the convivial students. They made sundry attacks upon the tank, but one night Dr. Daniel Read, the President, and Professor Joseph Ficklin of the chair of mathematics caught them, and dampened their ardor. The rhyme is Field's description of the incident.

In it one can see the earnest of much of his later humorous work, and to one who knew all the circumstances, many of the touches in it are peculiarly striking.

Professor Ficklin was a serious sort of man—a student of mathematics only—and was then writing a text-book on geometry. To those who knew him intimately he had a fine social nature, but to the average student he was simply the giver of hard problems of peculiar originality. Field had no talent whatever for mathematics and glibly omitted it, but he was an omnivorous reader of fiction, poetry, folk-lore and classical mythology. Somewhere he had been well grounded in Latin and evinced here his love for Horace which was subsequently so strongly developed. On the college roll he was known as Field first and his younger brother as Field second. Hence his signature of "Ager Primus" a non-de-plumo which he kept up some-

time later in his journalistic work by the initials "A. P."

### VINUM ET PUERI

VINUM MARCH NOX, CUM DOCTOR D—  
Jacet in lectum peacefully,  
Existmat audire noise  
Vemens ab damnatibus boys.  
Ille dixit, "Duterturbo,  
Et statim ab sacellum go."  
Non sooner dixit quam 'twas done,  
In viam daret on the run.  
Sed primus at Josephus' door,  
He stops et raps, et—nothing more.  
Josephus, too, in lectum lay,  
Et planned up problems ad next day,  
Et lost in meditatio deep,  
Tamenque tired, could non sleep,  
Cum suddenly a magnum sound,  
Roused illum ab his thoughts profound;  
A vox outside was heard to say,  
"Come, care Joseph, sans delay!"  
Id was the Doctor's vox he heard,  
Et so he dressed sans nary word;  
Et cum he ab the fores came,  
He heard the Doctor loud exclaim,  
"O age, age! dear old feller,  
- amant boys sunt in the cellar!  
Et ere nos know id, they'll have drank,  
The vinum ex the vinum tank!"  
"Yes, we'll away et spoil hoc fun  
Et catch the rogues ere they're begun!  
If I can't flunk 'em at their tasks,  
Ego will flunk 'em at the casks!  
Et nos will vero mimo see.  
Si they can fool geometree."  
Ita duo make their way,  
Ad vinum cellar sans delay.  
The Doctor stands outside the door,  
Audiet young kits in a war.  
Says one, whose nomen I'll not state,  
"If Doc, comes here, I'll break his pate!"  
"Com lo! the door was opened wide,  
The Doc, was seen, and by his side,  
Stat carus Joseph, full of glee,  
Et in his hand, geometree.  
Magnus deus, how the boys  
Cossarunt ex their drink et noise!  
Et unus Senior, on his knees,  
Cries, "Doctor, let me go sir, si tu please.  
A Junior dixit in contrition,  
"Don't keep me off from exhibition."  
A Sophomore, wild and in despair,  
Describes triangles in the air.  
Cum, care Joseph cries with glee,  
"State problem tenth, from Liber three."  
The frightened pueri all crowd,  
Around the Doctor, who aloud,  
Proclaims ut he will have to see,  
Them ranged before the Faculty.  
Sed gloria to that Faculty,  
Doctor cavet, pueri, free.  
AGER PRIMUS.

When I saw him next he had just recently returned from Europe and married. I met him on the streets of St. Louis and he made me go home with him for the night. I can recall the picture of his taking the drop light and pawing the contents of his wife's bureau drawer to and fro uttering dramatically:

"And the lamplight gloated o'er," while he searched for his purse to get money with which to show his rural friend the city sights. Finding it at last he put it into his pocket with much the same air that Joe Jefferson assumes in "Lend Me Five Shillings," when he finds the purse in the strange overcoat, he exclaimed, "Now Baskett, we are ready." Not a penny would he permit me to pay for anything.

He was going to write a book on dogs, he told me. Of these he was inordinately fond. At college he had a little black rat-terrier that was his constant companion. In the midst of the deepest councils of that August body, the Missourian staff, I have seen him get down on all-fours to have a romp with "Penny."

FIELD had a contempt of form for the sake of form. In this he was extravagantly American. Hating monotony he was ever struggling for the original.

The next I knew of him he came to Mexico, Mo., as the representative of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. A certain candidate for governor was canvassing the State and Gene was reporting his speeches and receptions at each town. Some one came down from up stairs where his candidate was speaking and found him stretched on a bench in the hall below. "Why are you not up stairs reporting the scene?" was asked him. "Oh," replied Field, "after he had talked five minutes didn't he say so and so (quoting favorite phrases of the speaker in perfect mimicry of voice, gesture and facial expression.) Yes!" "And later didn't he rear up on his toes, clench his fist (thus) and say so and so again (quoting and mimicking)?" Yes. "Well then," he replied, lying comfortably down again, "a fellow doesn't have to be up stairs to follow that old fool."

In his next day paper followed a glowing account of Col—'s appearance at Mexico, with quotations from the speech and proper interjections of applause, etc.

THE next 'and the last time that I saw him was in Denver, where, while on the Tribune, his national reputation really began. I recall now, since I have seen his later work, so tender and serious after his children were born, what a wondrous change domestic life had wrought within him; and how when I presented my oldest boy, then a five-year-old, what a strange thing it seemed to see my old rollicking friend reach out and draw the child into his arms, and to see how confidently the timid boy responded to his fatherly touch.

I have shed tears of mirth with him at college; and tears of tender and serious sentiments with him since we both have entered the higher school. The critics who could not enter the realm where he was easily King, may say he was not a poet; others who could not approach his talent or appreciate the delicacy of his art may sneer at him as the poet of the nursery; but I only know that wherever a newborn babe cries or gurgles, a new-made mother tightens her arms and a new-made father quickens his gait; wherever a step is heeled, and a story asked or a knee climbed and a neck clasped; wherever homes are gladdened by children's glee or darkened by children's death, or parental hearts are buoyed by hopes of filial love ripening with the years, this poet of the tenderness of our homes will be read, when rhymes of a higher art and on higher themes lie stainless and unthumbed in our book cases. Inexperience is the same as youth; and to those who cannot yet know all that his tender verse and prose may be to them, his little poem, "Sometime" may be as fitting as it was to the restless babe over whose crib he bent with the tears of love in his eyes: "You are too young to know it now, But sometime you may know."

JAMES NEWTON BASKETT.

Note:—Nov. 13.—1908: This Manuscript was written shortly after Field's death. Part of it was published in the Book Lover (?) by Scribners but much was omitted. The manuscript was returned with the editor's erasures and suggestions to the printer.  
J. N. Baskett.

## NOTES FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Stanford University has recently added a medical department.

Forty new football songs have been submitted at Harvard this year.

Northwestern shows an increase of fifteen per cent in attendance this year.

Pennsylvania has eighty-four students from the Latin-American countries.

It is estimated that 50,000 people will attend the annual Yale-Harvard football game this year.

The new Carnegie swimming pool at Yale, which will cost \$40,000, is to be completed by February.

The University of Virginia has decided to retain its requirement of Latin or Greek for either the A. B. or A. M. degree.

The Nebraska County Fair will exceed all previous fairs this year. A "Congress of Fair Women" is to be the "big show."

The Junior Engineers at Purdue have decided to wear as their distinctive garb, trousers of silver gray corduroy with red leather cuffs and trimmings.

The Teachers College of Columbia University is soon to have a new Domestic Arts building, equipped with laundry rooms, cooking laboratories and accommodations for textile work.

The Texan announces the girls' leap-year number for some time in December thus: "Think of it! An edition of eight pages gotten up by fifteen popular co-eds! Can you imagine anything more spicy?"

Dr. Richard C. McLaurin of Columbia University, President-elect of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is of wide experience. He was born in Edinburgh, reared in New Zealand, educated in Cambridge, and for some time was professor in the University of New Zealand.

The North Dakota Student, in an editorial on Senator Vilas' \$2,000,000 gift to the University of Wisconsin for permanent endowment, writes the following paragraph: "No such provision has been made for the University of North Dakota. Of course our university is in its infancy and its alumni of the first years are few and yet comparatively young. But there is a possibility that North Dakota University may yet be the recipient of a gift like that of Senator Vilas'. Here's to you, Alumni!"